

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, UK

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS TO HMG RE ROLLS ENGINE FOR
BOEING 747

REF: LONDON 10291

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMED PRATT AND WHITNEY OFFICIAL
AUGUST 14, ON BASIS OF REFTEL, THAT EMBASSY LONDON
EXPRESSED TO UKG THE U.S. CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR
U.S. AIRCRAFT ENGINE MANUFACTURERS OF POSSIBLE PLAN TO
SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ROLLS RB-211-524 ENGINE. WE
ALSO INFORMED PRATT AND WHITNEY THAT, IN RESPONSE TO
EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATION, UKG SAID DECISION HAS NOT YET
BEEN MADE WHETHER TO BUILD THE RB-524 ENGINE AND GAVE
ASSURANCE THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS IS UNDER NO PRESSURE
WHATSOEVER FROM UKG REGARDING WHICH ENGINE IT SHOULD
CHOOSE FOR NEW 747 ORDERS.

2. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS OF USG, PRATT
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AND WHITNEY REPRESENTATIVE SAID NEWS THEY HAVE RECEIVED

FROM COMPANY SOURCES RECENTLY ON THIS QUESTION CONTINUES TO BE DISQUIETING. THEY UNDERSTAND PLANS ARE GOING FORWARD TO DEVELOP THE 524 ENGINE, ALTHOUGH NO FINAL DECISION REACHED AS YET, AND THAT TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN BRITISH AIRWAYS AND BOEING TO POWER NEW ORDERS OF BOEING 747'S WITH THE 524 ENGINE. PRATT AND WHITNEY REPRESENTATIVE MAINTAINED THAT PERFORMANCE OF P-W ENGINES NOW INSTALLED IN 747 EXCEEDS THAT OF PROPOSED 524 ENGINE, AND, THEREFORE, COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD ARGUE IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED PURCHASE OF P-W ENGINES. HE REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT KEEP PRATT AND WHITNEY ABREAST OF SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION IT MAY RECEIVE ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO MAKE CERTAIN UKG CONTINUES TO BE AWARE OF OUR CONCERN IN THIS MATTER AND TO REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF VALIDITY OF HUBBACK'S ASSERTION (REFTEL PARA 2) THAT UKG NOT APPLYING ANY PRESSURE TO BRITISH AIRWAYS RE ENGINE PURCHASES FOR NEW 747'S. KISSINGER

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